

20 April 1971

Dear Harold:

This is in partial response to yours of April 12. We have been very pressed for time and I shall have to omit dealing with a number of things for the time being.

However we did get down to Accurate TV yesterday, found that the yellow button switch for your little Sony is standard equipment, and they supplied one which we are forwarding under separate cover. We tried it out on a duplicate of your machine, and it works. It plugs into the external mike receptacle at the lower back of your machine and makes it possible to turn the machine on and off while either in the recording or playing mode without having to deal with the sliding switches on the top.

We also are enclosing a Sony foot treadle which I have had for three years with my Sony 100 but never used after trying it a few times. I found I have to retrace so much while transcribing that it's just easier to use the manual controls. However, you might find it useful and if so you are more than welcome to it. Again, I tried it out on a duplicate of your machine, and it works. Even if you don't find it useful, don't return it, as I probably never would use it. Perhaps you could use it for bargaining purposes on some other piece of equipment.

We also inquired about external microphones and whether they would be more sensitive than the built-in mike in your machine. The answer is simply that it depends on the mike and its receptive capacity compared with that of yours. No way to say from here, and the advice is for you to take the equipment involved to a good Sony dealer and get his opinion. He will know or can find out the sensitivity ratings of the mikes and any compatibility factors involved. Same thing goes for adapter plugs, which Accurate says are usually available. Patch cords also are available, and it's best to take the equipment involved in for a fitting on the spot, due to the different plugs and receptacles that are used. [For instance, Sony and Craig mikes both use double plugs with on-off control switches that appear identical. Yet the Craig mike, while it will record on a Sony machine like yours, will not turn the machine on and off simply because the pin for that circuit is slightly shorter. No doubt this built-in incompatibility is deliberate.]

We had dinner last Wednesday with Hal, and he looks much better physically and appears much more cheerful. His new job, with the Dennison company that makes stationery accessories, binders, labels etc, appears permanent, he thinks, unless there is a general business disaster.

We now can supply the zip code for his address, a basement apartment at 735 1/2 Warfield Avenue, Oakland, Calif., 94610.

He does not yet have a telephone, but expects to arrange for having one connected fairly soon, when he can get someone to stay there during a working day to let the phone installer in.

He was delighted to hear your book is out, and himself volunteered that he would have to get to work on Eason, Spann, Dunbar and Louis Freeman in an effort to promote some interviews for you. He also said he expected to write to you soon.

He seems much restored, appears to have given up the idea of getting a job in Europe, and says Cheryl is talking of going to India. In any case, he seems much more like his old self and as if he now discerns some security in his life, for the time being, anyway.

I wish we could be of more help in arranging interviews, but I know none of these people. Jenifer, who listens occasionally to Eason, says he appears to have three different producers, two of them men, Howie Engle and Mark Hagen, and one girl named Pat something. From what listener comment Jenifer has caught, it appears that the girl is most pleasant.

About all we can tell you is that KGO is the only network radio station that has such shows. Dunbar of course has a TV show also. There may be other TV call-in shows, but we don't know of them. The only other radio talk shows appear to be on smaller FM stations, and not too many of them.

Have you thought of contacting Ron Dellums, the black Congressman from Berkeley who was elected last fall when he unseated a veteran Democratic liberal named Jeffrey Cohelan? I know that Dellums has been mailing a taped interview to KPFA-FM every week, in which he usually interviews someone in the news. Such exposure would be limited to the four Pacifica stations, of course -- Berkeley, New York, Los Angeles and Houston, but it would reach the black elite in all those cities as well as radicals and liberals generally in the same areas. Dellums is very intelligent and reasonable, and while he probably has an infinite number of irons in the fire by this time, he still should be interested in your findings in the King/Ray case. It would be a start, anyway.

Pacifica also has a radio correspondent in Washington who sends occasional tapes of interviews. His name is Steve Bookchester. If you like, I can find out from KPFA how to get in touch with him.

Sometime this weekend I hope to go through the various enclosures you have sent and return those you have asked to have returned. The assumption is that nothing else needs to be returned, okay?

In some haste, and with all the best,

Sincerely


jdW